the Ayurveda Pharmacy, had to be raised to Rs. 22,000, to meet the increased demand for Ayurvedic medicines and the larger consumption of them at the hospital. The Pharmacy and the Patasala are proposed to be strengthened by the appointment of additional hands. An Inspector of Ayurveda will also be appointed to exercise effective supervision over the grant-in-aid institutions which, for want of such supervision, are often found to be doing really nothing.

24. Public Health.—Correct vital statistics are an unerring index of public health, but the arrangements now in force for the registration of vital statistics are very defective. Compulsory registration is provided for only in the case of Municipal towns, and the returns from rural areas leave considerable room for improvement. A Bill is now before the Legislative Council for making registration compulsory in these areas, and there is no doubt that the figures of births and deaths will show a better approximation to the accepted standards when that Bill passes into law. In regard to the prevention and cure of epidemic diseases, especially cholera, a new scheme has been recently sanctioned by Government, under which it is proposed to train six medical officers in the preventive and curative treatment of cholera, small-pox, typhoid, influenza, plague and other diseases which break out in an epidemic form and in recording and maintaining notes of interesting and valuable cases. The trained officers will, during ordinary times, be attached to hospitals in the more important towns, but on the outbreak of an epidemic, they will form themselves into a brigade and do intensive team work under proper supervision, with a view to eradicate the disease promptly and prevent its spread to other places. In view to improving the teaching of hygiene Higher Grade Vernacular Schools where it forms an optional branch of study, it is in contemplation to send batches of twenty teachers from the Training Schools for a course of training in hygiene in the Medical Department for a period of three months. It has also been resolved to educate the masses in the principles of health, personal hygiene and sanitation, by instituting branches of the Trivandrum Public Lecture Committee at taluk headquarters and by arranging for simple standardised lectures thereon in the vernaculars being read and illustrated by magic lantern slides under the auspices of those branches. The services of teachers will be largely utilised in this work.

25. Education.—Travancore is justly proud of her achievements in the domain of education. There is no other part of India which can boast of a higher percentage of literacy except perhaps the neighbouring State of Cochin. The benefits of this wide extension of education are reflected in the general advance of the people of the country in intelligence, in their capacity to profit by the changes around them, and in their desire to assume a large share of public and civic responsibilities. This remarkable spread of literacy in the country has, however, not been an unmixed blessing. The education imparted in the State has shared, in common with the rest of India, the general defect of being far too bookish and literary, and not sufficiently practical or vocational. The superficial extension of education has been so great and rapid that the quality of the material has necessarily suffered, and the problem that now faces the Government, as I dare say it does the public, is how to consolidate the gains of the past, while eschewing the evils that have followed in their wake, and above all, how to give a practical turn to the whole movement. It is common knowledge that the present lop-sided advancement of education in this country has only served to bring into existence a large body of young men who have become dissatisfied with their old environment and time-honoured pursuits and have developed a feeling of disappointment at the loss of their cherished hopes of getting Government employment. These young men have not the patience or the insight to see—little blame to them—that in the very nature of things it is impossible for Government to provide executive, ministerial, or clerical appointments for all of them. The question of imparting vocational instruction, so as to enable the generality of these youths to earn an honest and independent livelihood, is one of supreme importance to the State at the present juncture. Two Committees have sat over this question and the allied questions of educational curricula and finance and have submitted their recommendations, and Government hope to take up their reports for early consideration at a conference of educational experts and those interested in the problem, both official and

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